



NewsLines

Closures

The Traffic Management Flight Household Goods and Passenger section will close today at 11 a.m. for an official function. In case of emergency, contact the Command Post at **895-5850**.

The 20th Civil Engineer Squadron will conduct training Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The squadron will only answer emergency calls during that time.

Warehouse sale

The Commissary is set to have a warehouse sale Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meeting

The Shaw chapter of the Air Force Sergeants' Association is set to meet Wednesday at Club Shaw at 11:30 a.m. All enlisted ranks are invited.

Quarterly awards luncheon

The base airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, civilians and volunteers of the quarter will be recognized April 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the Club Shaw Annex. See a first sergeant for tickets.

AFAF campaign

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is underway and will continue until April 18. For more information, call **895-9588/1425** or e-mail afafcampaign@shaw.af.mil.

Duck feeding

Members of Team Shaw and their families should not feed the ducks at Memorial Lake. The ducks can pose a danger to aircraft here.

Shaw helpline

The Family Support Center's Shaw helpline is available to answer questions about deployment issues and refer callers to appropriate sources for other information. The line, **895-2511**, is operational 24 hours a day.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Hanner

Preparing to roll

An F-16CJ from the 78th Fighter Squadron, deployed to the 363rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, waits on a hot ramp while a maintenance crew pulls pins on weapons attached to the aircraft prior to a mission March 21. Members of the 363rd EFS support Operation Iraqi Freedom at a forward deployed location in Southwest Asia.

Keeping health information private

By Col. Kenneth Des Rosier
20th Medical Group commander

Recently, beneficiaries of the Department of Defense Military Health System should have received a "Military Health System Notice of Privacy" in the mail.

One of the basic rights of beneficiaries in the MHS and TRICARE, aside from the right to receive quality health care, is the right to keep health care information private. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 established new standards for privacy, called the privacy rules. All U.S. health care providers, hospitals and organizations are required to follow these rules to protect the privacy of health care information from unauthorized disclosure or use.

Under these HIPAA rules, the MHS is required to inform beneficiaries about how their personal health care information is used, provide guidance on privacy rights and limit use and disclosures of personal health care information. The notice of privacy sent out recently is an official notice about this guidance.

The MHS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards to limit unauthorized access or disclosures, but the new privacy rules provide TRICARE beneficiaries with additional safeguards for ensuring this information is adequately protected.

Under the privacy rules, beneficiaries have the right to access, review and receive a copy of their medical

record or health care information on file at the Medical Treatment Facility; request a change or correct an error in the record; know how, when and to whom their information is disclosed; file a grievance with the MTF regarding a privacy concern; and provide written instructions on personal preferences regarding use and disclosure of personal health information.

Personal health care information may be disclosed to other health care providers such as specialists, pharmacists or laboratory technicians who, at the request of a beneficiary's primary doctor, may need access to health care information to provide them with optimal care. However, MTFs may not share personal health care information with outside sources for marketing, health care research or any other reason without the beneficiary's knowledge and written consent.

The 20th Medical Group will serve as advocates for privacy issues. They will respond to inquiries or concerns regarding personal health care information or the new privacy rules and assist whenever needed. The 20th MDG stands committed to ensure private health care information remains accessible to beneficiaries and their providers and protected from unauthorized access.

For more information, visit the 20th MDG local privacy office (Room 148) or call **895-6522/6128**. Additional information and a copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa.

Inside: Page 11 **Month of the Military Child:** photos of Shaw children at play.
Page 17 **Total Force:** Reservists augment Shaw's Fire Department.

AADD rides free, confidential, save lives

Airmen Against Drunk Driving's mission is to prevent and minimize driving under the influence of alcohol and provide military members a safe ride home.

Shaw's AADD offers free, confidential rides from 4 p.m. Thursday to 10 p.m. Sunday every week to active-duty military and their family members. To request an AADD ride, call **983-9722** or **983-9723**.

AADD membership is open to all ranks. According to Staff Sgt. Kelly Rippy, president of Shaw's AADD program, "We are always in need of more weekend standby drivers."

When the standby driver receives a call, they request basic information from the person to be picked up, such as a description of the individual, their location and pick-up point and where they want to be dropped off. When the AADD volunteer driver arrives, the caller is asked to provide military identification to ensure security before

driving onto Shaw. AADD members do not check names and ages.

While AADD does not condone underage drinking, the goal is to keep the driving impaired off the road with complete confidentiality. "We do not report suspected u n d e r a g e drinkers. We do not intentionally track repeat passengers in an effort to identify potential alcoholics," said Rippy.

"The purpose of AADD is to get members home safe, not to get them in trouble," said Senior Airman Emily Allen, AADD driver.

AADD's driving radius is the area of Sumter only.

Rippy said the reason AADD doesn't transport to and from Colum-

bia is for the safety of the drivers.

For those who use the AADD program, there are some basic rules that must be followed: alcohol is not permitted in the AADD member's vehicle, seatbelts must be worn at all times and the driver will proceed directly to the caller's residence.

Stops at other drinking establishments, gas stations or restaurants are not permitted. AADD reserves

the right to deny rides to individuals who might jeopardize the drivers' health or safety.

They also re-

serve the right to contact the authorities if the driver or passengers are physically in danger or are endangering themselves while in the vehicle.

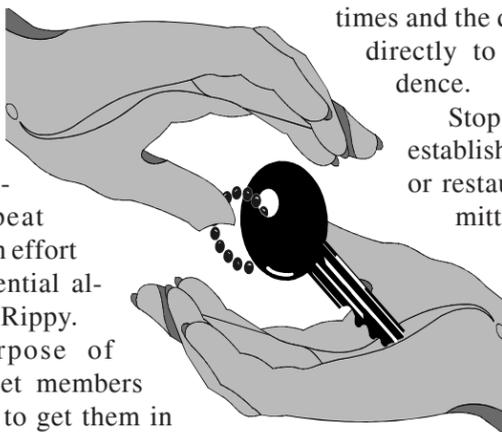
Though AADD can give members

a safe ride back to base, the 20th Security Forces gate guards may check for ID cards from each person in a vehicle. There is no retribution for using AADD, though everyone is subject to random searches directed by higher authorities. Transportation by AADD does not guarantee protection from law enforcement agencies. People are susceptible to being stopped if they act in a manner to attract attention.

Rippy said, "We stick to our motto: Airmen Don't Let Airmen Drive Drunk! We are here to save lives."

Allen agreed. She said the reason she volunteers her time to drive is, "I would rather take an hour out of my night to drive someone home safe, than find out about an accident the next day."

For any questions regarding AADD, call **895-1844** from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (*Staff Sgt. Lee Watts contributed to this article.*)



DoD issues guidance on actions regarding BRAC

By Staff Sgt. Lee Watts
Editor

Congress authorized the formation of a base realignment and closure commission in 2005.

According to a message from the office of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld Feb. 13, the BRAC process will involve all levels of the Department of Defense and all bases will be considered and treated equally.

BRAC is a congressional action carried out by an independent commission.

According to a message from Gen. John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, "It is

inappropriate for any Air Force member to participate in, or even give the impression of participating in, efforts to "BRAC-proof" an installation or influence future BRAC actions."

According to DoD guidance, DoD personnel may not participate in their official capacity in activities of any organization that has as its purpose, either directly or indirectly, insulating bases from realignment or closure.

DoD officials said the reason for the guidance is to ensure the fairness of the BRAC process.

Since the commission has not yet been formed, no potential list of affected bases has been made.

After gathering information and completing a com-

prehensive analysis, the Secretary of Defense will submit recommendations for realigning or closing bases to the independent BRAC commission.

BRAC's goal is to accomplish several things, including: eliminating excess infrastructure, reshaping the military, pursuing jointness, optimizing military readiness, and realizing significant savings in support of transforming the DoD.

Public information about the current BRAC process and past experience with prior BRAC rounds will be available through a central DoD Web site to be established in the near future.

For more information about BRAC, call the 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at **895-2019**.



OPSEC reminder

Don't post pictures of a deployment on personal Web pages. The information could be used by terrorists.

TRIVIA CONTEST

Question: Who is the Undersecretary of the Air Force?

Last week's answer: During Operation Desert Storm, the air war lasted 39 days before the ground war began.

Last week's winner: Capt. Elwood Waters, 20th Fighter Wing Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

The first person to e-mail *The Shaw Spirit* at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil with the correct answer will get their name in next week's paper.



Time without an alcohol-related incident

AADD 983-9722

Least recent

20th Component Maintenance Sq. 0 incidents

(Dates as of April 7)

Most recent

20th Medical Operations Sq. April 5, 2003 (2 days ago)

20th Aircraft Maintenance Sq. April 2, 2003 (5 days ago)

20th Equipment Maintenance Sq. Feb. 15, 2003 (23 days ago)

20th Civil Engineer Sq. Feb. 27, 2003 (39 days ago)

20th Mission Support Sq. Jan. 28, 2003 (69 days ago)

Days without an alcohol-related incident: 2

AADD safe rides since Jan. 1: 99

AADD on call: Senior Airman Karl Blackwell
Airman 1st Class Mari George

20th Medical Group members win Acc awards

By **Adriene M. Dicks**
Correspondent

Two 20th Medical Group members are recipients of Air Combat Command-level awards.

Maj. Gregory Laffitte, 20th Aero-medical-Dental Squadron Aerospace Physiology Flight commander, is the recipient of the 2002 Aerospace Physiologist of the Year Award in the field grade officer category. In nominating him for the award, Col. Kenneth Des Rosier, 20th MDG commander, described Laffitte as one who leads by example, a catalyst for success and a versatile officer who places service before self.

Some of Laffitte's accomplishments during the award period, Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2002, include being chosen by the



Laffitte

medical group commander as a 20th Fighter Wing Disaster Control Group representative, training 32 Army National Guard UH-60 crew members outside of normal duty hours, including weekends, and formulating a medical plan for the base during ShawFest 2002. Laffitte is also involved in activities on base and in the surrounding community. He spoke at a University of North Carolina Air Force ROTC unit function and volunteered more than 600 hours as an assistant troop master with the Boy Scouts of America.

According to Laffitte, working with the right people is a major factor in his receiving this award.

"Whenever something like this comes your way, it's because of the people you are surrounded by and the opportunities presented to you as a team," said Laffitte. "We have outstanding officers and enlisted members working here, dedicated to the mission."

Laffitte said the award is a reflection

of the unit he is attached to, and duties get accomplished because of the push and drive of those around him.

Airman 1st Class Amanda Ryan, 20th Medical Support Squadron health services management journeyman, is the recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Enlisted Health Services Management Award in the airman category.



Ryan

Lt. Col. Terry Hamilton, 20th MDSS commander, described Ryan as a dynamic airman with a can-do attitude, outstanding communication skills and a proven leader.

Some of Ryan's accomplishments during the Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2002, award period include managing the mail-out pharmacy program, assigning primary care managers to more than 900 beneficiaries new to the base during a

flight manning shortage and ensuring 100 percent availability of medical records during the 2002 Operational Readiness Inspection.

According to Ryan, working in an environment where others take care of their responsibilities makes it easy to volunteer for additional duties, feeling confident the mission will be accomplished.

Master Sgt. Kathy DeVan, 20th MDSS NCO in charge of Managed Care, said Ryan is an outstanding airman with impeccable work ethics.

"Ryan is an asset to the Air Force," said DeVan. "I wish I were able to work with airmen like her from the beginning of my career to the end. She will be a superb NCO when the time comes."

Ryan was also selected as the 20th MDG Woman of the Year 2002 in the airman category and received the Top 4 Mirror Image Award.

Laffitte and Ryan will go on to compete at the Air Force level.

Stork Sorties

March 3 – Marcus DeShaun Johnson to Marcus Johnson and Evett Ybarra

March 5 – Alexandreana Taylor to Jason and Heather English; Catherine Rose to Valentino and Teresa Garcia

March 8 – Kylie Marie to John and Pamela Bondi

March 12 – Haylee Katelyn to Aaron and Tara Giddens; James Martin to James and Angela McConnell

March 13 – Joshua Dale to Dale and Denise

Flick; Elizabeth Suzanne to Edwin and Emily Zapata

March 14 – Jonathan David III to Jonathan and Melissa Browning; Kaitlyn Nicole to Joshua and Jennifer Joslin; McKenzie Zane to Robert and Elizabeth McClellan

March 15 – Aaron Gabriel to Gabriel and Melissa Hunninghake

March 18 – Jacob Thomas to Thomas and Brooke Vibert

March 19 – Mason Alan to Alan and Tammie Gawronski

March 20 – Tamia Adriana to Adrain Le Sane and Tomeka Reese

March 21 – Michael Allen to John and Athena Quarles

March 24 – Montana Kaye to Bill and Becky Hewitt

March 25 – Tyree Khalil to Christopher and Kimberly Evans

March 26 – Allison Marie to John and Jana Grimm

March 27 – Lilly Suzanna to Adam and Ashley Gurule

Shaw Women of the Year award winners

The 2002 Shaw Women of the Year awards were presented at the Annual Women's History Month Banquet March 26 at the Club Shaw Annex. The winners in the six categories are:



Airman category:
Senior Airman Valerie Bracy, 20th Operations Support Squadron



NCO category:
Tech. Sgt. Jackie Avila, 20th Mission Support Squadron



Senior NCO category:
Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Yeaton, 20th Contracting Squadron



Officer category:
Capt. Shelley Strong, 20th MSS



GS-6 and below:
Patricia Babirad, 20th Security Forces Squadron



GS-7 and above:
Debra Atkins, 20th MSS